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APPLICANT : KAO CORP;

INVENTOR : NAGUMO HIROSHI;

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TITLE : PRODUCTION OF (METH)ACRYLIC HIGHER ALKYL ESTER

ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To obtain the subject compound of good hue that is useful as a starting monomer for acrylic resins, coating materials, adhesives and tackifiers by reaction of a higher alcohol with (meth)acrylic acid or the like.

SOLUTION: An 8-22C alcohol with a COV of  $\leq 0.7 \mu \text{ mol/g}$  such as octyl alcohol, decyl alcohol, (meth)acrylic acid or its lower alkyl ester such as methyl ester or ethyl ester, preferably a polymerization inhibitor, a solvent and a catalyst are heated at 100-120°C under the normal to 13.3 kPa pressure to effect the reaction between them. In a preferred embodiments, the resultant reaction mixture is decolorized with an adsorbent such as active carbon or activated clay in an amount of 0.1-1 wt.% at 50-90°C for 5-30 minutes thereby giving the objective (meth)acrylic higher alkyl ester. The alcohol is obtained by reductive treatment of an 8-22C alcohol of  $\geq 0.7 \mu \text{ mol/g COV}$  with a hydrogenation agent.

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